The DEVIL's DISEASE:
OR,
The Sin of Pride arraigned and condemned.

Courteous Reader,

There is lately published an excellent and profitable Sermon, called, Christs first Sermon, or the Necessity, Duty, and Practice of Repentance opened and applied. Also Christs last Sermon, or the everlasting estate and condition of all men in the world to come: very Godly Books and are but three pence price.

There are likewise seven other small Books, all of them very godly, and very comfortable for thy soul. One is entituled, The Charitable Christian. The second, The Black Book of Conscience. The third, The Plain Mans Plain Path-way to Heaven. The fourth, The Fathers last Blessing. The fifth, Dying Day by Hand. The sixth, The dreadful Character of a Drunkard. The seventh, Englands Faithful Physicians. All very necessary for these Licentious Times, and each of them being but of two pence price. They are to be sold by *John Andrews* at the *White Lion* near *Fye-Corner*.

Ezek. 16. 49.

Behold this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, Pride, and fulness of Bread, and abundance of Idleness was in her, and in her Daughters, neither did she strengthen the hands of the poor and needy.

These words, beloved, may very well be compared and applied to these last and worst of times, wherein we live, for if ever any Scripture was fulfilled, this very Scripture is fulfilled among us at this very day: For behold this is the iniquity of England, pride and fulness of bread in her, and in her children, the daughters of England are proud & haughty, and walk with stretched out necks, and naked breasts, walking and minting as they go. I [illegible] not trouble my self much to prove this [illegible] the Lord knows the truth of it is to [illegible] fest among us in these our dayes, for [illegible] the Prophet saith, Ezek. 7. Behold the day [illegible] it is come, behold it is come, the rod hath [illegible] pride hath budded & violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness. The people of England have [illegible] themselves up, and have priced themselves [illegible]

[illegible] greatness; the pride of England, as it was said of Israel. Hos. 5. 5. doth testifie against it to its face. In the words of the text we have the Prophet testifying against the pride of the Israelites, comparing it with the sins of Sodom; and the iniquity of Sodom you know was very great; the sins here mentioned, are first pride, then fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness: pride that's the leading sin of all.

Now the sin of pride is either inward in the heart, or else outward in the body; and that in five several particulars. First in the speech, Dan. 4. 30 Is not this great Babylon that I have built, saith Nebuchadnezzar, for the house of my kingdom, and for the honour of my Majesty. Secondly, pride is in the looks, Prov. 6. 17. A proud look and a lying tongue, the Lord hates. David saith, Psal. 131. 1. Mine heart is not haughty or mine eyes lofty. Thirdly, pride is in the habit and apparel of the body; thus Herods pride appeared, Act. 12. 21. Herod arrayed himself in gorgeous apparel; so likewise the rich man, Luke 16. 10. clothed himself in purple, and fared deliciously every day. Fourthly, pride is in the gestures & [illegible] of the body, Isa. 31. 16. The daughters of Sion are haughty, and walk with stretched out necks, and wanton eyes, mincing and tinkling with their feet as they go. Fifthly, pride is oftentimes in the actions, Isa. 3. 5. The childe shall behave himself

himself proudly against the ancient, Nehem. 9.
19. The Children of Israel dealt proudly, the
and their Fathers, and hearkened not to the Co
mandments of the Lord.

So like unto pride is oftentimes seen in men
curious and over-costly feastings, & pompo
adorning of their houses, more then moder
lawful delight, and necessity doth require: an
this sin is now very common amongst us at th
day; now the sinfulness and wickedness of
sin of pride, blinds and hardens the minds an
hearts of men and women, Dan. 5. 30. Nebu
chadnezzars heart was lifted up, and his mind
so blinded with pride, that he was not onely
deposed from his throne, but also driven from
among the sons of men, and his heart made li
the Beasts, he was so blinded that he becam
brutish, and his dwelling was with wild asses,
and he was fed with grass like oxen.

Secondly, pride sets men in opposition a
gainst God, in other sins men run away fro
God, but pride is a coming against God: in
other sins men flye from God, but in the sin of
pride men flie upon God, James 4. 26. God re
sisteth the proud. Men do not resist until they are
set upon: when theeves set upon rich
they will if they find themselves able make
resistance; so proud persons they set upon
and as much as in them lies, endeavour

[illegible] wisdom, righteous-
[illegible], redemption [illegible], life, and salvation, but
[illegible] persons will not do this: Ye will not come
[illegible] me, saith Christ, John 5.40. that [illegible] might have
[illegible]. Men that are proud and self-[illegible] care
[illegible] for coming to Christ; he that comes to
Christ must deny himself, and forsake all; which
[illegible] sure no proud persons will be willing to
[illegible]; honour, and greatness, and outward brave-
[illegible], they are the things which proud persons look
[illegible], so they may be proud, fine, and brave,
[illegible] no matter for any thing else; there-
[illegible] 'tis twice recorded in Scripture, God resi-
[illegible] the proud, and giveth grace to the humble,
Jam. 4. 5. 1 Pet. 5. 5. Proud persons like full
stomachs loath the honey-comb of grace.

Seventhly, Pride brings heavy calamities
and sore judgements both upon the persons and
places where it is exercised, Prov. 15. 25. The
Lord will destroy the proud. Haman and Achito-
phel were proud persons; and God destroyed
them and their houses; Herod was a proud per-
son, and the Angel of the Lord smote him, and he
was eaten to death of worms, Acts 12. 23. Men that
are haughty and proud, God will bring them
down; Nabuchadnezzar was a high tree, his top
reached up to heaven, Dan. 4. 11. he was proud and
haughty, but what became of him; he was cut
down; so Pharaoh and the Egyptians were full of
pride

pride and cruelty, and [illegible] followed, Exod. 15. 10. They in all their pride and glory were overwhelmed in the sea. So likewise Saul, he was ed proud and rebellious against God, and the Lord rejected him, and cut him off by the Philistines. 1 Sam. 31. So likewise Ahab, 1 King. 2. So Belshazer, he lifted himself up against the Lord, and presently a hand was seen writing his doom upon the wall, and that very night was he slain. Proud persons who ever they are, God will humble them, and lay them low: God beholdeth them afar off, he resists them, and will scatter them.

In Mal. 4. 1. saith the Prophet, Behold the day commeth that shall burn as an Oven, and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall be as stubble; and the day cometh that shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, and it shall leave them neither root nor branch, Isa. 2. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. The day of the Lord of Hosts shall be upon every one that is proud, and he shall be brought low, and upon all the cedars of Lebanon, and all the [illegible] of Bashan, and upon all high hills and mountains that are lifted up, upon every high tower and [illegible] wall, upon all the ships of Tarshish, and [illegible] pleasant pictures, and the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low. Whatsoever it is that is proud and lofty that lifts it self up against the Lord,

shall be thrown down, for pride must down, Christ said of the Temple, not a stone of it shall be left, but it shall be utterly overthrown. The Jews were so proud, that they despised the meekness and meekness of Christ, and openly said in the pride of their hearts, We will not have this man to reign over us: But what became of them? They were shortly after scattered throughout the world, and destroyed; yea, Jerusalem itself, that glorious City, utterly ruined and destroyed.

So likewise Moab and Ammon, Assyria and Nineveh threatened for their pride, Zeph. 2. 9, 10. As I live, saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation: The Ethiopian also shall be slain by the sword, and I will stretch forth my hand against Assyria, and destroy it, and will make Nineveh a desolation, and a wilderness. And the reason of all this is given verse 10. This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the people of the Lord of Hosts. Pride was the first firebrand that set Sodom on fire, and will be the ruine and destruction of those that delight therein: 1 Sam. 22. 28, The eyes of the Lord are upon the haughty, that he may bring them down.

And

And I beseech you observe, that pride is the forerunner of ruine and destruction. Hos. 5. 5. The pride of Israel doth testifie to his face, therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity, Judah also shall fall with them. Is Israel proud? So is Judah, so is England; the daughters of England are proud and haughty, walking with stretched forth necks, painted and spotted faces, naked breasts, and powdered locks, walking and mincing as they go: Must Israel fall? So must England; for after pride cometh destruction. Pride struts before, and leads up the ban, but judgement and destruction follows after, and brings up the rear. Prov. 16. 18. Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Lucifers pride cast him out of heaven into hell; Sodoms pride set Sodom on fire, Jerusalems pride brought down ruine and destruction upon their heads: Yea, most certain it is, that pride hath been the cause of all the commotions, wars, ruines, and desolations that ever were in the world. Proud Haman he thought scorn to lay hands upon Mordecai alone, but he will have the blood and bones of all the Jews to satisfie his pride, Esther 3. 6. and shortly after he was hanged upon the same gallows which he had set up for Mordecai, Est. 7. 10. Herods heart was swoln with pride, and the worms eat him up, Acts 12. 23. So Nebuchadnezzar, in Dan. 4. 30.

[illegible],33. priding himself in his greatness, had his Kingdom taken from him, and he was driven forth from among men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of Heaven, till his hair was grown like Eagles feathers, and his nails like birds claws. So David, 2 Sam. 24. in the pride of his heart numbers his people, and for that sin the Lord swept away seventy thousand of his people presently after. So Absalon and Adonijah by pride aspire and seek to set themselves in the throne, and thereby bring destruction upon themselves. Pride loves to go before, but it is before a fall, before destruction: If you find pride in the beginning of any thing, you shall certainly finde destruction in the latter end. Pride proceeded and went before the fall of our first parents, Gen. 3. 5. they would be like unto God, knowing good and evil. Pride procured the Angels fall from Heaven to Hell, and will be the ruine of all those kingdoms and persons where it is embraced and received, Luke 14. 11. Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted: Be they particular Persons, Cities, or Kingdomes, or whatsoever they are that do exalt themselves through Pride, God will throw them down. Jer. 50. 29, 30, 31, 32, Babylon hath been proud against the Lord, and against the holy One of Israel, there-

therefore shall her young men fall in the streets, and all her men of war shall be cut off, saith the Lord. Behold I am aganst thee, O thou most proud, saith the Lord of Hosts; for this day is come, and the time that I will visit thee, and the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up.

It is greatly to be feared, that these three Nations of England, Scotland, and Ireland have been proud, yea, very proud against the Lord and his worship, and have greatly provoked him with that sin: The Lord grant we be not punished with sore judgements for this sin. God threatned Jerusalem for this sin, Jer. 13. 9. I will mark the pride of Judah, and the great pride of Jerusalem, saith the Lord. And how he will do this, you may see in Isaiah 3. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20. and so on to the end of the Chapter: Moreover the Lord saith, Because the Daughters of Sion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks, and wanton eyes, walking, and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Sion, and the Lord will discover their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling Ornaments about their feet, their cauls and their round tires like the Moon; their chains, and their bracelets, and their mufflers, their jewels, and the Ornaments of their

legs,

...gh, the head-bands, and the tablets, and the ear-rings, the rings, and the nose-jewels, the changeable suits of apparel, the mantles, the wimples, and the crisping pins, the glasses, and the fine linnen, the hoods, and the veils: And it shall come to pass, that instead of a sweet smell there shall be a stink, and instead of a girdle a rent, and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding with sackcloth, and a burning instead of beauty. Their men shall fall by the sword, and their mighty men in the war, and her gates shall lament and mourn, and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.

And God hath not onely threatened and denounced his displeasure against this abominable sin of pride, but he hath likewise in all ages inflicted his judgements upon sundry particular persons, for their extraordinary delight in this sin. Many and fearful have been the plagues and most dreadful judgements which God in all ages hath powred out and inflicted upon those that have offended his holy Majesty herein, as all Histories both sacred and prophane do abundantly declare. For proof whereof, take as it were a taste but of some few, whereby it will clearly appear how wonderfully the Lord our God in all ages, times, and places of the world hath severely punished all those Nations, ... people whatsoever, who through ... pride

pride and arrogancy have lifted themselves up and rebelled against the great God of heaven and earth: as for instance, The Devil who before was an Angel in heaven, who proudly presuming to set himself above the Lord, who is God over all, was for this his pride cast down from heaven and thrown into the bottomless pit of hell, into that Lake which burneth with fire and brimstone for ever, where he is reserved, as St. Jude saith, Jude 6. In everlasting chains under darkness, unto the judgement of the great day. So likewise Adam through the delusion of the Devil, proudly desiring to be as God, knowing good and evil, was for this his wilfull sin, for ever plunged both himself and all his posterity, into the gulf of misery, and that for ever; so likewise Corah, Dathan and Abiram, Numb. 16. for their aspiring great pride in stirring up the people to rebellion, were swallowed up alive into the earth, they and all that appertained unto them. So in Gen. 11. the people of Babel going about to build them a Tower whose top should reach up to heaven, thereby proudly intending to seat themselves even with God himself, were all confounded in a moment, and their work brought into confusion. So in 1 Sam. 17. Goliah that huge and mighty Gyant proudly defying the Armies of the living God, was shamefully slain by

vild the servant of God with a small stone out of a sling: So that great Antiochus intending to overthrow and spoil Jerusalem, and thereby spoil and destroy the Temple and Sanctuary of the Lord, and murther the people of God, was for this his pride overturn'd in his Chariot, as he was riding to effect this his cursed design, and his belly burst in sunder, out of which there trawled forth most filthy loathsome stinking worms; and in the end he so stank, that both himself and his servants loathed the sight and savour of his most loathsome carkass, and thus ended this proud tyrant his wretched life in woful misery. So Nebuchadnezzar in the 4th. of Daniel, for his pride was driven forth of his Kingdom, and constrained to eat grass with the wild beasts in the Wilderness. So Saul for his pride and disobedience to God, had his Kingdom taken from him, and he in the end most desperately slew himself upon the point of his own sword. So likewise proud Haman in the 3d of Ester, seeking the life of just Mordecai and all the Jews, brought himself at last to hang upon his own Gallows, which he himself had prepared for Mordecai. And as ye heard before, Jerusalems pride brought ruine and destruction upon their own heads, so likewise the Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for their pride and contempt of the Lord, were suddenly

ly destroyed by fire and brimstone which the Lord rained down from heaven upon them, who as St. Jude saith, Are by God set forth for example to them that shall yet presume to live ungodly. And the whole World except only Noah and his family, were for their pride and wickedness against God, drowned by an universal deluge from heaven. So that good King Hezekiah, for his pride, in shewing to the Embassadors of Babylon his riches and treasures; for this his sin he lost all his treasures, and his sons also carried captive unto Babylon. And likewise David, who was a man after Gods own heart, for his pride in numbring the people, contrary to the will and commands of God, was sadly punished for the same, threescore and ten thousand of his people being slain with the pestilence, as you may read, 2 Sam. 24. 15. So likewise proud Pharaoh in the 14th. of Exodus for his pride against God in pursuing the children of Israel, was drowned in the midst of the Sea he and all his Host; and the proud Pharisee in the Gospel justifying himself in his own righteousness before the Lord, was for his pride reproved of the Lord and rejected. So Herod in Acts 12. 21, 22. for arraying himself in sumptuous apparel, and not giving glory to the Lord, as it is in the 23. Verse, immediately smote the Angel of the Lord [illegible]

[illegible], and he was eaten of Wormes, and gave up the Ghost; a fearful example for all proud persons to take notice of. So that wicked Jezabel, of whom you have mention made before, in the midst of her pride and vanities, was thrown out of a Window and dashed in pieces against the ground.

Many more sad examples I might give you of Gods heavy judgements against proud persons, but I shall conclude all with this one most fearful example, which is as followeth: A Gentlewoman of Antwerp, a very rich Merchants daughter, being invited to a Wedding, she thereupon made great preparation for the decking of her self in curious and costly attire, to which end she curl'd her hair, and dyed her locks, after which she painted her face with sundry ointments, to make her self seem more beautiful; but so curious was she, that none could be had to make her cloathes fine enough for her: this Gentlewoman being priding her self up in her glass, could not make her cloathes fit fine enough to her curious fancy, at which she being in great rage, began to ban and curse most horribly, casting the cloaths under her feet, wishing the Devil might take her if ever she put on any of them again: whereupon immediately upon the same, the Devil by Gods just permission, transforming himself in-

to

to the shape and likeness of a young man, as brave and artical as her self in outward appearance, came in to her, pretending to be a suitor unto her, and seeing her thus passionate, and in such a pelting chafe, he demanded of her the cause thereof, which she making known to him, he presently desired her to permit him to dress her, promising to her that he would diligently please her in all respects, and thereupon he began to dress and adorn her after a most neat and curious manner, which he soon finished to her great content and liking; insomuch, that she beholding her self in a glass, as the Devil bid her, became greatly taken and enamoured with her person; after which saluting one another, the Devil wrung her neck in sunder from her shoulders, so that she died most miserably, her body which she had before so painted and spotted being metamorphosed most strangely into black and blew colours, most loathsome to behold, and her face which was before so amazing became now so loathsome, fearful and detested, that it was a most dreadful spectacle to behold; whereupon a rich Coffin was provided by her friends, and her loathsome carkass put therein, and covered over with most rich and costly clothes: at the time appointed for the burial of her vile body, four men immediately assayed to lift up the corps, but could not

ly stir it at all, after which six men assayed to take it up, but could not once so much as move it from the ground; whereat the standers by greatly marvelling, caused the said Coffin to be opened, and the body of this proud creature being taken away (none knew how) in stead thereof they found in the Coffin a black Cat, very loathsome and deformed to behold, setting a Ruffe, and crisping and curling of hair, to the great fear, horrour, and amazement of the beholders.

Thus Christian Reader have I briefly shewed you this sad but true example of Gods wrath against Pride, and having now presented to your view this sad and woful spectacle; my desire and advice is, that all that reads or hears of it, especially all those who delight them in painting and decking themselves up in pride, as this proud person did, that by considering and looking upon this sad example, in stead of looking in their own Looking-glass, they may behold and see their own sins, and be ashamed of their evil wayes, for fear lest the same God, who is yesterday and for ever the same, inflict upon them the like, if not more severe punishments.

O consider this and tremble all ye proud gallants, that pin and point, powder and trim your selves up in pride and vanity, God hath told you

these

these things to forewarn you: But if you will still persist, and go on in your pride, all these things, and worse than all these shall come upon you, & that suddenly, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it, Isa. 23. 9. The Lord of Hosts hath purposed to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honorable of the earth. He hath purposed, and he will do it, unless you repent.

You have seen now what this sin of pride is, together with the sore evils thereof, and the sad judgements that are threatned against it in the word of God, with the heavy calamities that have befallen Angels, Kingdoms, and persons for this sin of pride: O then I beseech you, and intreat you in the fear of the Lord, as you love your own souls, and as you would not have these sad judgements and calamities to befal you, loath this accursed sin and abhor it. How many poor members of Jesus Christ might be fed, and cloathed with such things as are vainly and hourly needlessly and superfluously wasted and spent in pride and vanity? I dare boldly say, that there need not be a poor man or woman in England, that should want either food to eat, or cloathing to put on, if but the tenth part of what is vainly spent in pride and wickedness, might be spared, and given to the poor. How many thousands are there spent yearly to maintain

this

this accursed and abominable sin of pride? How many are there, that if a poor man want but a penny, or a farthing, will say they have it not? But when the Devil prompts them on to pride, and to paint themselves, curl and powder their locks, and to spot their faces with black patches, they can finde money enough. Many there are whose faces God hath made fair and beauteous; and yet, as though God hath not done his part by them, or as if they could mend Gods workmanship, they spend both their time and estates to paint and adorn themselves, and thereby become loathsome in the eyes of the Lord; as that accursed wretch proud Jezabel did, 2 Kings 9. 30. Jezabel painted her face, and tired her head; and she was thrown out of the very window, where she was painting and pranking her self in her pride, and so dashed to pieces against the walls, and trodden under foot to death, and the dogs eat her flesh, so that nothing remained of her.

O that our proud Ladies would think upon this; they that walk upon Belconies, and stand at their doors glorying in their pride and shame, enticing their Lovers by their naked brests and painted faces, to wantonness and lasciviousness; for know this, that your painting, and powdering your locks, and spotting your faces, are but snares and baits for lust and wantonness,

nes, and that this sin of yours is monstrous and intollerable. I remember a notable story of an ancient man, who coming into Alexandria, passed by a woman in a very spruce and wanton dress, whereupon the good old man presently fell a weeping: And being asked the reason thereof, he answered, saying, That he wept for two things; first, for the danger that womans soul was in, secondly, to see what a vile wretch he had been, in that he had not taken so much care and pains to serve and please his God, as this wanton woman did to please her wanton lusts and affections.

I beseech you therefore for the Lords sake, consider the dangers your poor souls are in, and forsake this accursed sin of pride; and for your adorning, let it be such as the Apostle Peter commends for your wear, 1 Pet. 3. 34. Whose adorning (saith he) let it not be that outward adorning of plating the hair, or wearing gold; but (saith he) let it be of the hidden man of the heart, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For (saith the Apostle in the 5th. ver.) after this manner in the old time, the holy women who trusted in God, adorned themselves.

Now to conclude all, as the Apostle saith in Rom. 13. 14. Let us walk honestly as in the day, not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and

and wantonness, not in strife and envy, not in pride and painting: But as ye saith, so say I, Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. O Christians, if you did but know what a lovely and comely Garment Christ is, I am confident you would cast away all your pride and vanity to put on Christ. Look then upon Jesus Christ with an eye of Faith, through the glass of the Scripture, and see how this white Garment of Christ doth become you, and forsake all your pride to put on Christ, for I am sure no cloathing can so well become a Christian as the white Robes of Christ, which are these, Humility, Temperance, Patience, Mercy, Brotherly kindness, Love, and Holiness, which is acceptable in the sight of God. To whom be Praise and Glory, both in Heaven and Earth, throughout all Ages, World without end, Amen.

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